

QU'APPELLE PROGRESS.

Thursday, April 16, 1908.

THE WESTERN WORLD.

NEWSY ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR OUR READERS.

Our Western Heritage the Subject of this Column, Which Will be Found Entertaining and Instructive.

Lieut. Gov. Mackintosh has returned to Regina.

The great Robt. Burdette will visit Winnipeg in April.

Moosomin wants the C. P. R. to provide a new station and stockyard at that place.

The bill incorporating the Alberta Irrigation company has passed its third reading.

In the diphtheria cases at Oak River anti-toxin is being used with very beneficial results.

The First National bank at Morris, Minn., has suspended. Depositors will be paid in full.

Rev. A. Grant, pastor of the Baptist church at Winnipeg, has gone on a trip to the old country.

Already clear water can be seen at Fort William. It is reported that navigation will open early.

The Canadian block at Winnipeg, destroyed by fire some weeks back, will be rebuilt as a great residential palace.

Capt. Joseph Parker, father of Gilbert Parker, the Canadian novelist, celebrated his 80th birthday at Belleville, Friday.

Mr. R. H. Aggr has been appointed successor to Mr. T. J. McBride, as manager of the Massey-Harris Co., at Winnipeg.

Rev. J. R. Silvers, of Chicago, has been paying his former parishioners at the Congregational church, Winnipeg, a visit.

Mrs. Thos. Davis, wife of British Columbia's chief justice, died. The funeral was one of the largest in the history of the province.

In the Peaseville suit the supreme court at Washington has decided the treaty between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Joseph Carman, of the Winnipeg school board, has been investigating free text-books in the east and south, and is strongly in favor of them.

Mr. E. Rogers, who has just returned from the Dominion capital, is quite sure the Dominion government intends to improve St. Andrew's Rapids.

Inspector Wilson, of the N. W. M. P., at Lethbridge, has been transferred to Duck Lake. Inspector Starnes, from Regina, will fill the vacancy at the former place.

Rev. A. C. Reddie, of Qu'Appelle, has been placed in charge of St. Alban's church, Moosemin, left vacant by the death of Rev. W. T. Milton to Winnipeg.

Many applications for experienced farm help are being received at the department of agriculture of the Manitoba government, good wages are being offered.

A divine healer, Rev. W. E. Chalmers, has been stirring religious circles in Winnipeg. Among his converts, is a hard man, who professes to have received sight.

Mr. J. L. Hough, Q. C., of the law firm of Hough & Campbell, Winnipeg, has been married at Los Angeles, Cal., to Miss Julia Chaffey, sister of Ald. Chaffey, of Winnipeg.

John L. Hackett writes from Hamilton that he will take in all the regattas to pull in the singles, doubles and fours. He suggests doubling up with the ex-champion.

Prof. Robertson has urged before the agricultural conference for the Dominion parliament the necessity of having cold storage warehouses at Winnipeg and Calgary for butter, cheese and other perishable produce.

We learn from an English exchange that Rev. William Henry Cooper, honorary canon of Saskatchewan, has been licensed to officiate in St. Barnabas' chapel, Belleville, in the parish of Lingfield, a Congregational Churchman.

The executive committee of the society of chosen friends will appoint a district deputy grand commander for the Northwest Territories, it being the intention of the society to strongly push the work of organization in those districts this year.

The will of the late Robert Anderson of Montreal, dispose of an estate worth about \$2,000,000. In the list of legacies the following appear: Presbytery Manitoba, \$2,000; Minnesota society, Manitoba Presbytery, \$2,000; Manitoba Presbytery college, \$2,000.

Following is the section in the game laws of the Northwest Territories relating to the prohibition of game:

"No elk, moose, caribou, antelope, deer or their fawn, mountain sheep or goat, shall be hunted, taken or killed between the first day of February and the first day of October in any year."

The G. P. R. Co., having reduced the rates from the coast to the Kootenay country, the fares are as follows: From Vancouver to Arrowhead, \$10.00; to Salmon, \$12.00; to Pelly, \$14.00; to Fort Reliance, \$16.00; to Fort Selkirk, \$18.00; to Fort St. John, \$20.00; to Fort Yukon, \$22.00; to Fort Smith, \$24.00; to Fort Resolution, \$26.00; to Fort Chipewyan, \$28.00; to Fort McMurray, \$30.00; to Fort Assiniboia, \$32.00; to Fort Carlton, \$34.00; to Fort Qu'Appelle, \$36.00; to Fort Yorkton, \$38.00; to Fort Pelly, \$40.00; to Fort Reliance, \$42.00; to Fort Selkirk, \$44.00; to Fort St. John, \$46.00; to Fort Yukon, \$48.00; to Fort Smith, \$50.00; to Fort Resolution, \$52.00; to Fort Chipewyan, \$54.00; to Fort McMurray, \$56.00; to Fort Assiniboia, \$58.00; to Fort Carlton, \$60.00; to Fort Qu'Appelle, \$62.00; to Fort Yorkton, \$64.00; to Fort Pelly, \$66.00; to Fort Reliance, \$68.00; to Fort Selkirk, \$70.00; to Fort St. John, \$72.00; to Fort Yukon, \$74.00; to Fort Smith, \$76.00; to Fort Resolution, \$78.00; 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REMEDIAL CONFERENCE.

NO SETTLEMENT REACHED.

After a Week at Winnipeg, the Commissioners Report. The Official Report.

The Ottawa commissioners, Messrs. Dickey, Desjardins and Smith arrived at Winnipeg on Wednesday night, March 20th, and were received in due form, the minister of militia being honored by a body guard of the dragons. They drove direct to the Manitoba hotel.

The next day the Hon. J. D. Cameron, secretary of the provincial government, waited upon the gentlemen and made arrangements for the conference. Mr. Cameron and Hon. C. Sifton, the attorney general, were appointed to represent the federal government.

The Dominion commissioners, Messrs. Dickey, Desjardins and Smith, arrived at Winnipeg on Wednesday night, March 20th, and were received in due form, the minister of militia being honored by a body guard of the dragons. They drove direct to the Manitoba hotel.

The conference was opened on Friday morning at the Manitoba hotel, with the three Ottawa and the Dominion commissioners in attendance. It was given out at the opening that no one else would be in attendance.

The commissioners met daily up to Thursday morning, April 2nd, the last session being held that morning at 10 a.m. The Dominion commissioners, by reports given out had a good time. What with the friendly meeting of the commissioners and dinner every now and again, there was enjoyment all round. At noon on Thursday they departed for Ottawa, a satisfactory result being reached.

The official report of the conference between the Dominion and Manitoba commissioners is given below. It begins with the first proposal presented by the Dominion commissioners.

DOMINION PROPOSITION.

Propositions for settlement of Manitoba school question from Dominion commissioners for Manitoba government.

Resolution shall be passed at the present session of the Manitoba legislature providing that in all schools where there are Roman Catholic children of school age, and in cities where there are fifty or more children, the board of trustees shall arrange that such children shall have a separate school room for their own use, where they may be taught by a Roman Catholic teacher, and Roman Catholic parents, or guardians, say, ten in number, may appeal to the department of education from any decision or neglect of the board in respect of its duty under this resolution.

Provision shall be made by this legislation that no child shall be compelled to attend a school where the majority of the children are of the same religion as the child, and that no child shall be compelled to attend a school where the majority of the children are of the same religion as the child, and that no child shall be compelled to attend a school where the majority of the children are of the same religion as the child.

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eral government, as embodying the views of the Manitoba government upon the question, it is stated that the proposal to establish a system of state aided separate schools in any form cannot be agreed to. The Dominion commissioners, however, on the basis of the policy of the government upon the question, in the late general provincial election, and upon it the government was sustained. It is clear therefore that we are precluded from accepting the proposition which has been made. Such a concession would, in our opinion, be a direct breach of faith with the people of our province.

Apart from the fundamental objection above stated, we think it due to you to state somewhat in detail a few of the practical objections to your proposals.

As to the first clause: 1. Separate schools under this clause would result in a teacher having under his charge a comparatively small number of pupils of various ages and degrees of efficiency. The school could not, therefore, be properly graded, and could not attain the degree of efficiency reached by public schools in cities, towns and villages. Grading of classes and mutual competition would be destroyed. The separate school would, therefore, of necessity be inferior in experience elsewhere will prove the truth of this contention.

2. The organization of the separate school would be compulsory. Neither the Roman Catholic parents nor the school trustees would have any option. The voluntary system, which is almost universally, school organization depends, and which rules in Ontario, where there is a fully developed separate school system, is entirely eliminated. Given the requisite number of Roman Catholic children, the school would be established, and the separation without regard to the wishes of the parents or the trustees, and equally without regard to the ability of the district to maintain another school. It is most probable also that in such a case it would be held that the Roman Catholic children had no legal right to attend the public school. Thus we would by law compel Roman Catholics to separate themselves and deprive them of the right to send their children to the public schools. There seems to be no precedent for separate school legislation for such a provision.

3. In many cases it would be impossible to provide a separate building, and the Roman Catholic children therefore would be assigned to a room in the public school. There seems to be no precedent for separate school legislation for such a provision. 4. In many cases it would be impossible to provide a separate building, and the Roman Catholic children therefore would be assigned to a room in the public school. There seems to be no precedent for separate school legislation for such a provision.

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is no safeguard. We know by experience that in schools where there was a Protestant minority under the old system, most bitter complaints were made of the inability of the non-Catholic children to receive the same education as the Catholic children. The studies, owing to the time of the school being taken up with religious instruction. The same result would inevitably follow in an aggravated degree if we were unable to control the holding of religious exercises in every case where the Roman Catholic children were in minority. It is our belief that in such case the schools would be of little benefit to the non-Catholic minority.

In view of the above remarks, it will be unnecessary to deal at length with the other proposals contained in the memorandum, and our remarks thereon will therefore be confined to a brief space.

As to text books—It will be impracticable to provide by statute that the text books should be satisfactory to the Roman Catholic minority; but we have no doubt that if other points could be agreed upon an arrangement could be arrived at on the text book question which would be mutually satisfactory. We regard this part of the difficulty as comparatively easy of adjustment.

We would have no objection to the Catholic people being represented upon the advisory board and the board of examiners. In point of fact, his grace, the late archbishop, was offered a seat on the advisory board. But we see no practical way of embodying such a provision on the statute. The effect of such a statutory provision would be that the board would not be legally constituted without Catholic members, and the legal constitution of the board might be disturbed by the resignation of the Catholic member, or the refusal of the Catholic member to accept office. It would also be impossible to give a statutory privilege of representation to one religious denomination without according the same privileges to others.

The proposal to adequately assist a separate normal school would not be considered. It would be absolutely impracticable. The normal school is a technical training school for teachers. We endeavor to raise it to the highest standard by devoting to it as much of the school funds as can be spared. There is no room for an additional school in favor of dividing the funds, or of separating Roman Catholic teachers in process of training from the others. The Roman Catholic teacher would not be prevented from acquiring religious instruction elsewhere, but it is clear that their own educational interests and that of the schools to be placed under their charge would best be served by their attendance at the provincial normal school.

As to the question of permits: The proposition in the memorandum might be carried out as a matter of administration. The last clause of the memorandum referring to the terms upon which the remedial bill would be withdrawn, is not submitted in accordance with the understanding arrived at upon the opening of the conference. The understanding was that in the event of a settlement being made, the remedial bill would be immediately withdrawn. The passing of the necessary legislation, and the carrying out of the terms of the settlement, was to be left to the parties to the settlement. A departure in the direction of a condition of a withdrawal of the remedial bill that legislation to carry out the terms of the settlement if made, should be carried before the withdrawal of the bill. Apart from the understanding which was had, it would be impossible to accede to the terms of the settlement. The legislature cannot meet until April 10th, and under the ordinary procedure, the government could not undertake to have a bill passed before the 10th of April, the day on which the Dominion parliament expires by effluxion of time.

It will be seen from the above remarks that the plan proposed involves the establishment of a state-aided denominational system of state-aided separate schools, which in practical effect would carry with it the same evils and difficulties which we have hitherto had experience. The objections may be summarized as being:

1. The statutory division of the people into separate denominational classes.

2. The necessary inferiority of the separate schools.

3. Impairment of the efficiency of the public schools through division of school resources.

4. The hindrance of non-Catholic taxpayers by compelling them to maintain separate schools.

5. The according of special privileges to one denomination which could not on principle be denied to all the others, and which in practice could not be denied to such others without entire destruction of the school system.

It will not therefore be a matter of surprise to you that we were unable to accede to the proposition made, or any proposition based upon similar principles.

We are prepared, however, to make good the promise to remedy any well-founded grievances, if such exist, and we therefore submit a plan of remedial modifications, which we believe to be free from objections upon principle, and which in our opinion will remove any such grievances, and at the same time in no way affect the efficiency of the public school system.

Our proposition is in the form of an alternative:

First—It should be accepted as a satisfactory measure of relief to the minority, and as removing their grievances, we hereby offer to completely secularize the public school system, eliminating religious exercises and teaching of every kind from school hours. We desire to be understood in connection with this proposition that it is made as a compromise offer, and not as embodying the policy which the government and legislature of the province and the trustees of the schools are willing, however, to carry out to the detriment of secular education, the department might withhold the grant. Even if this were done the school trustees would be compelled to carry on the school and the penalty would be inflicted by the trustees. Apart from that, however, the remedy is apparent rather than real. In actual administration we know from experience that it is most difficult to decide on the withholding of a grant on account of inefficiency. Repeated and troublesome inquiries have to be made, extending opinions to be weighed, and in the end it is difficult to see how such a decision could be made. Moreover, the withholding of a grant from a separate Catholic school, established in pursuance of a treaty of settlement, would almost invariably be charged to be a violation of the spirit of the treaty.

Another feature of this clause is the effect on non-Catholic children. What would become of them while the religious education of the majority was proceeding?

Under our present conscience clause there is no possibility of trouble to any class. In the memorandum there

week to the representatives of the different denominations to which the pupils may belong in such a way as to proportion the time allotted as nearly as possible to the number of pupils in the schools of the respective denominations. Two or more denominations to have the privilege of uniting for the purpose of such religious exercises. If no duly authorized representative of any of the denominations attend, the regular school work to be carried on until 4 o'clock.

No pupil is to be permitted to present at such religious exercises or teaching, if the parents shall object. In such case the pupil to be dismissed at 3:30.

Where the school room accommodation at the disposal of the trustees permits, instead of allotting different days of the week to different denominations, the trustees to direct that the pupils be separated and placed in different rooms for the purpose of religious exercises, as may be convenient.

We believe that the foregoing proposal will remove every well founded grievance.

If the objection of the minority be that the schools are Protestant as alleged in some of the petitions, then the objection can be fully and finally disposed of by complete secularization.

If the real object be the desire to have along with efficient secular education, proper religious training, then the second plan proposed offers an effective method of attaining the object desired. In fact it is difficult to conceive what better plan for the education of the Catholic children of a system of schools entirely Catholic. It would be, in any event necessary to have some general provision as to the time allotted for religious exercises and teaching. The individual school could not be permitted to determine without restraint. The time suggested seems to be a reasonable and sufficient proportion of the school hours, and the hour in the day is undoubtedly the most convenient for the operation of the conscience clause.

At the same time no distinction of any kind between the different denominations. Absolutely equal rights would prevail. Non-Catholics desiring a greater amount of religious instruction than is given at present might carry out their views. While this desirable end is accomplished, the uniformity and efficiency of the schools to which the children of all denominations would go, would remain absolutely unimpaired and unaltered.

CLIFFORD SIFTON,
J. D. CAMERON.

Manitoba Hotel, Winnipeg.

March 31st, 1896.

Hon. Clifford Sifton,
Hon. J. D. Cameron,
Ottawa.

Gentlemen:—We have leave to acknowledge your communication dated yesterday, and written in reply to our suggestions for settlement of the Manitoba school question.

We regret to find that there has been some apprehension as to any understanding arrived at upon the opening of the conference. The understanding was that in the event of a settlement being made, the remedial bill would be immediately withdrawn. The passing of the necessary legislation, and the carrying out of the terms of the settlement, was to be left to the parties to the settlement. A departure in the direction of a condition of a withdrawal of the remedial bill that legislation to carry out the terms of the settlement if made, should be carried before the withdrawal of the bill. Apart from the understanding which was had, it would be impossible to accede to the terms of the settlement. The legislature cannot meet until April 10th, and under the ordinary procedure, the government could not undertake to have a bill passed before the 10th of April, the day on which the Dominion parliament expires by effluxion of time.

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are in question. The problem presented in the school question is to secure to them their just and lawful privileges under the constitution in such a manner as to cause the minimum of interference with the public schools. The school trustees, and in that view we think our suggestion has merit. As to your second objection we may observe that the Roman Catholic population contribute their share of all taxation for schools, and in return are entitled to obtain the same view of the rights held by the minority under the constitution. The contention that the system we propose would be und

